



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



Whitaker
Institute



2015 Annual Report: Executive Overview

Whitaker Institute for Innovation and
Societal Change

April 2016

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Director's Message

John McHale, Established Professor and former Head of Economics at NUI Galway, was appointed as the new Director of the Whitaker Institute. Professor McHale is also more widely known for having served as Chairman of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council since July 2011.

The outgoing director, James Cunningham, has moved to Northumbria University to take up a professorship at Newcastle Business School.

In thanking James, John commented that his “task is made immensely easier owing to the strong structures and reputation James has built. While continuing to build these supports, part of my task will be to increase the Whitaker’s presence in national and international research-led policy debates.” John’s broad vision for the Institute is in line with themes that motivated Dr. Whitaker’s own career, “making our sum even more impressive than our parts”. John has outlined three themes that stand out as being consistent with Dr. Whitaker’s work and with the research strengths the Institute already displays: Business, Innovation and Economic Development; Public Sector Innovation and Reform; and Sustainable and Inclusive Societies.

Dr. Stephen Hynes, leader of the Socio-Economic Marine research cluster and lecturer in the Discipline of Economics, took on the new role of Scientific Director of the Whitaker Institute. This is a new position with responsibility for work closely with Professor John McHale, Institute Director, on developing a strategic research agenda for the Institute, and collaborating effectively with Institute leadership and cluster members to support the translation of research output of cluster members into information that is usable and digestible by policy makers and the wider public. To this end, Stephen has been promoting the synthesizing of current research in the field to inform policy makers through a Policy Brief Series to be launched in early 2016 that will be of relevance to key stakeholders both nationally and internationally. Stephen will also be working with cluster leaders and the Development Officer to develop supports to the research community within the Whitaker Institute.

Scholarly Outputs

Table 1: 2015 Whitaker Institute Publication Counts derived from NUI Galway's Institutional Research Information System (*report run 22nd April 2016*)

Publication Type	Total for 2015
Peer-reviewed journal articles	249
Books	6
Edited books	9
Book chapters	72
Published reports	20
Conference publications	115
Conference contributions (paper, poster, etc.)	115
Working papers and non-published reports	11
Other publications	80
Total publications during 2015	677

Please see the accompanying Publications Yearbook for the complete list of publications by Institute members.

Media Coverage and Selected News Items

Air transport and regional development



Dr. Amaya Vega

The air transport sector is a major contributor to the globalization of the economy. Its growth was accompanied, and to a certain extent caused, by liberalization. The growth in traffic levels has led to congestion, at both major airports and in airspace, and to a lack of service on thin routes, thus mainly affecting core regions and remote regions. Dr. Amaya Vega from the Whitaker Institute's Environment, Development, and Sustainability research cluster is part of the Management Committee of the TUD COST Action Air Transport and Regional Development. With 28 parties involved, the Action is led by Bremen University of Applied Sciences, Germany. This Action investigates the relationship between air transport and regional development. The benefits that may be derived from it are both scientific and societal in nature. They include a better understanding of that relationship focusing on Europe; policy recommendations on how air transport infrastructure

and service improvements should be made in order to support economic competitiveness and social cohesion; and the constitution of a network of researchers dedicated to air transport and its economic, social and environmental implications aligned with Europe 2020 strategy.

Protecting radical innovation

At the end of November, two of our Performance Management cluster members, Professor Breda Sweeney and Dr. Emer Curtis, presented a workshop entitled Protecting Radical Innovation in your Organisation, which examined the challenges for organisations of combining innovation that exploits current capabilities with innovation that explores new capabilities. The workshop focused on the Medical Device sector and was presented in association with Deloitte.



(l to r): Ray Cantwell, Finance Director Medtronic; David Kelly, CFO Arravasc; Breda Sweeney and Emer Curtis, Whitaker Institute; John Power, CEO Aerogen; and Ger Casey, Partner Deloitte

Building a creative momentum



Dr. Patrick Collins, co-leader of the Creative, Liveable and Sustainable Communities research cluster, speaking at the launch of *A Creative Momentum*

the project from the Whitaker Institute, said, “We are interested in gauging the impact that culture has on place. This is a very exciting project that looks at peripheral regions in Europe’s northwest and questions how culture and creativity is affecting the region’s development. It is envisaged that this research will help make a cogent case for the creative and cultural sectors, identifying supports for their growth, and, more locally, complements Galway’s bid for European Capital of Culture in 2020.”

Many of the supports under *A Creative Momentum* will be made available through the MyCreativeEdge.eu website. Launched in mid-2013, the site has already attracted 90,000 visits and 570 creative enterprises have published their free online profile. The survey of creative enterprises found that 68% of respondents already made some sales outside of their home country and the MyCreativeEdge site will be further developed in the coming years to improve access to international markets.

The ‘liveability’ of towns



Professor Kevin Leyden, co-leader of the Creative, Liveable and Sustainable Communities research cluster, spoke at a conference organized by the Heritage Council, titled, *Realising the Hidden Potential of Ireland’s Towns: Policies and Priorities for Their Future*, held in

Professor Kevin Leyden

A Creative Momentum, a new three-year, €2 million transnational project led by the Western Development Commission with support from NUI Galway, and to be implemented by six organisations based in Mid-Sweden, North East Iceland, Northern Finland, South East of Northern Ireland, and the West of Ireland, was officially launched in November in Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim.

Results of a new survey of creative entrepreneurs across Europe’s Northern Edge were presented at the launch, which indicate that 60% of creative entrepreneurs work on their own. A further 31% of enterprises employ fewer than five people. The survey also showed that just over half (53%) of creative entrepreneurs work from their own home, while 45% are members of some form of creative network or collective. In an effort to address the needs highlighted in the survey, the project aims to build networks to support creative entrepreneurs through innovation and skills development; provide opportunities to network and collaborate across the five partner countries; improve access to international markets; and carry out further research on the creative sector.

The *A Creative Momentum* project aims to connect and highlight the wealth of creativity across Europe’s Northern Edge. Dr. Patrick Collins, who is leading the research element of

Kilkenny in November. The conference was particularly relevant to policy decision-makers working in community, regional and rural development, as well as planners and architects, and focused on how the historic urban characters of many of Ireland's main streets are losing vitality and value through under-use or over-development.

The conference also considered how the social and economic factors that drive towns must be better understood to manage the process of change and maximize a town's value.

Digital campaigns encouraging empathy can have lasting positive effects

Research by Whitaker members Dr. Elaine Wallace and Dr. Mike Hogan was highlighted in an *Irish Times* article published on 5th November discussing current research into how digital campaigns that encourage expressions of empathy can have long-term positive effects. Drs. Wallace and Hogan are co-authors of a 2014 article entitled "Who Likes You and Why? A Typology of Facebook Fans", published in the *Journal of Advertising Research* and that identifies four fan types: Fan-atics, Utilitarians, Selfexpressives, and Authentics. Their study highlights the value of cluster analysis as a strategy for identifying different fan types and provides insights to prompt further research into Facebook fan types. Read the *Irish Times* article [here](#).

Lean Innovation Summit

In September, Lero facilitated four days of seminars and workshops on Lean Product Development with Don Reinertsen in Dublin and Galway. Don is President of Reinertsen & Associates and the author of three best-selling books on product development. The events were an integral part of a Lero-led research initiative focused on the flow of value in software development practices. A number of industry project partners participated in the events, which were funded by Science Foundation Ireland and Lero as part the Agile and Lean Project Management and Scaling (ALPS) programme. The seminars and workshops introduced participants to the science and some of the practical methods of second-generation Lean Product Development, such as economic models, queue management, batch size reduction, WIP constraints, and cadence. Don Reinertsen spoke about Second-Generation Lean Product Development at a further public seminar held at NUI Galway on 18th September.



(l to r): Denis Dennehy, Lero; Don Reinertsen, Reinertsen & Associates; and Kieran Conboy, Lero cluster

Professor Paul Portney visits the Whitaker Institute



Paul Portney, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Arizona, spoke at the Whitaker Institute in September. Professor Portney received a great reception for his seminar on the use of the contingent valuation method for natural resource damage assessment—a method that has been under scrutiny since its high profile use in the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1985.

Professor Paul Portney, University of Arizona, speaking at the Whitaker Institute

Using mobile technologies for effective health behaviour change

The mHealth Research Group hosted the inaugural mHealth Conference in NUI Galway on 9th June 2015. The conference attracted international interest, with presenters and delegates from Ireland, the U.K., Europe, and the U.S.A. representing a broad range of stakeholders from industry, health services, and academia. mHealth is the practice of medicine and allied healthcare or self-care supported by personal mobile devices, and has enormous potential to enhance healthcare delivery in terms of efficacy and cost efficiency. Dr. Jane Walsh, Chair of the conference and co-leader of the Health and Well-Being research cluster, called for a more multidisciplinary approach to integrate mobile technologies into effective behaviour change interventions. Feedback from the day was wholly positive, with delegates enjoying the opportunity for multidisciplinary conversation, networking, and sharing of ideas. mHealth holds enormous potential, but it is critical that quality research provides the evidence base required for this to occur. The mHealth Research Group is leading high quality multidisciplinary research in this area.



Delegates at the inaugural mHealth Conference

2015 Irish Transport Research Network conference held at NUI Galway

On 27–28th August, leading transport researchers gathered for the 2015 Irish Transport Research Network annual conference at NUI Galway. As the N6 project, harbour extension, and traffic layouts dominated local headlines in Galway, this conference aimed to shed light on the major national and international transport challenges and the latest developments in transport technology and policy. The keynote speakers were two international experts: Dr. Georgina Santos of Cardiff University and Dr. Robin Hickman of University College, London. The highlight of the conference was a panel discussion on the conference theme, ‘Green shoots v. green transport: Are economic growth and sustainable transport compatible?’ The panel discussion was open to the public and free-of-charge.

New economic baseline study and visualisation tool for Galway

The Whitaker Institute produced a new industrial baseline study for Galway to support the development of an economic plan for the city and county along with an accompanying website that visualizes the datasets. The study offers a snapshot of Galway across a broad spectrum of measures, including demographics, enterprise, and the environment. It outlines strengths, opportunities, and recommendations for the continuing economic development of the area across nine industrial sectors. The report finds opportunities for growth across all sectors examined: the creative industries, the



The Galway Dashboard www.galwaydashboard.ie

marine, medical technology, ICT, food, tourism, agriculture, education, and retail. It also highlights a number of assets in Galway city and county that could contribute to the future development of the region, including local third-level colleges, public research organisations, and Galway’s extremely successful medical device sector and flourishing ICT industry.

Report on Ireland’s ocean economy launched



Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine Simon Coveney launched the latest report on Ireland’s Ocean Economy, produced by NUI Galway’s Socio Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) at the Ocean Wealth Festival in Cork on July 10th. This report indicates that Ireland’s maritime economy is out-performing the general economy, growing by nine per cent from 2010 to 2012.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine, Simon Coveney, with SEMRU’s Dr. Stephen Hynes and Professor Michael Cuddy

Integrated thinking & reporting for sustainable growth and competitiveness

Members of the Performance Management research cluster organised *Practicing Integrated Thinking and Reporting*, a seminar dealing with sustainable growth and competitiveness. The seminar brought together practitioners and academics from 24 countries participating in the European Network for Research in Organisational and Accounting Change conference held at NUI Galway in June. Guest speakers on the day included Ray Cantwell, Senior Finance Director of Global Operations, Medtronic; Massimo Romano, Head of Group Integrated Reporting and CFO Hub, Generali S.p.a; and Nick Topazio, Head of Reporting Policy at the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. They discussed the need to highlight the creation of sustainable value for stakeholders within annual reports by focusing on forward-looking information for companies, not only to simply report historical content.

Final report on household consumption and lifestyles across Ireland

The CONSENSUS Research Project published its final research report, entitled *CONSENSUS: Consumption, Environment and Sustainability*, in May. The report was launched at the CONSENSUS International Conference on Sustainable Consumption Transformations: Implementation and Impacts, which took place at NUI Galway on 21st May. The CONSENSUS project—involving researchers from NUI Galway and Trinity College, Dublin—has advanced understanding of the drivers that shape everyday household consumption practices while also identifying a range of regulatory, technological and lifestyle interventions that could facilitate more sustainable living in the future.

The final report outlines the insights gained from foundational and exploratory CONSENSUS research in relation to household consumption and lifestyles across the island of Ireland. The report details international good practice and tools for governing that may enable consumption to become more sustainable. Novel methods and approaches outlined support more collaborative and co-produced transdisciplinary action for addressing the complex dimensions of transforming consumption.



Pictured at launch of the CONSENSUS Report at NUI, Galway (l to r): Dr. Mary Jo Lavelle, Dr. Ruth Doyle, Mr. Richard Manton, Mr. Kevin Woods (EPA), Prof. Henrike Rau, Prof. Anna Davies, Dr. Frances Fahy, Dr. Laura Devaney, and Dr. Jonathan Derham (EPA)

INMO study finds increased workplace bullying of nurses and midwives

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO), in partnership with NUI Galway and the National College of Ireland, published findings of a large-scale survey of nurses and midwives in Ireland regarding the current levels of workplace bullying experienced by its members. The study was headed by Professor Maura Sheehan of the Work, Society and Governance research cluster, who has published widely on issues of workplace discrimination and injustice. The report updates a University of Limerick-conducted analysis of nurses, in conjunction with the INMO, in 2010. The survey suggests that workplace bullying has increased by 13.4 per cent in the four years since the previous survey was conducted, and that about six per cent of nurses and midwives are being bullied on a daily basis.

Professor Peter Solar speaks at Duanaire launch at NUI Galway

Duanaire is a major new research platform at NUI Galway that formally launched on 14th April. The event featured a keynote talk by the distinguished economic historian Professor Peter M. Solar, of Vesalius College, Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Université Saint-Louis—Bruxelles. Professor Peter M. Solar addressed the audience on the topic, ‘The Information Revolution in History’. Professor Solar is a key figure in economic history scholarship, having made seminal contributions to the study of Irish economic history—pre-Famine economy in particular—alongside extensive work related to wider themes in economic history, including the evolution of textiles industries in Europe as well as maritime economic history.



Professor Peter Solar, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Professor Solar spoke on ‘The information revolution in history’ and detailed the transformation in computer technologies available to historians, and economic historians in particular, for managing and processing vast amounts of data. He cautioned, however, that this by itself did not necessarily or substantively transform economic history scholarship. He argued that we must, as economic historians, understand how data came to be collected in the first place and document these processes carefully. It is problematic, he warned, if and when datasets are made readily available without being well-documented; they may be incomplete and sometimes misleading. Scholars

will always need to appreciate and understand the gaps in, and limitations of, the data and to be aware of biases, which are not self-evident in datasets themselves. Solar spoke of the great opportunities for scholars in drawing on the expertise of wide public communities’ interest in history, not least in the rich knowledge of local historical societies, by using new digital tools to ‘crowd-source’ data itself, knowledge about that data, and the relevant historical contexts.

2015 Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair speaks at the Whitaker Institute

With the support of the Fulbright Commission, Dianne H.B. Welsh—Hayes Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship and Founding Director of the Entrepreneurship Programs at The University of North Carolina, Greensboro—visited the Whitaker



Professor Dianne Welsh

Institute in April to give a seminar on women entrepreneurs and their successful ventures. Dianne, the 2015 Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair for Entrepreneurship for Central Europe, is a recognised scholar in family business, international entrepreneurship, women-owned businesses, and franchising, and has seven books and over 150 publications. Her newest books are *Creative Cross-Disciplinary Entrepreneurship*, published by Palgrave-Macmillan, and the 2nd edition of *Global Entrepreneurship and Case Studies in Global Entrepreneurship*.

HRMJ rises in ABS Rankings

The *Human Resource Management Journal* (HRMJ), which was housed at Whitaker until the end of 2015 with Professor Tony Dundon as co-Editor-in-Chief, was elevated to a four-band ranked journal in the Association of Business Schools (ABS) Academic Journal Guide 2015. With HRMJ's impact factor ranking as first in the ISI's Industrial Relations & Labor category in 2014, this puts HRMJ as the highest academic-ranked journal edited in Ireland, and one of the top journals worldwide.

Role of intermediaries in the Northern Ireland peace process

Dr. Niall Ó Dochartaigh, leader of the Conflict, Humanitarianism and Security research cluster, spoke on the BBC World Service's Witness programme that aired on 6th February about the role of intermediary Brendan Duddy in the Northern Ireland peace process. Dr. Ó Dochartaigh worked with Brendan Duddy between 2006 and 2010 arranging the deposit and cataloguing of Duddy's private papers, which are deposited at NUI Galway, and carried out extensive interviews with Duddy.



Dr. Niall Ó Dochartaigh

Social and economic impacts of violence against women and girls



Dr. Nata Duvvury

Dr. Nata Duvvury, joint leader of the Gender and Public Policy research cluster, is leading a new international research project charged with calculating the social and economic costs of violence against women and girls. The project aims to demonstrate that the cost of violence is not just to the individual, but has a ripple effect on men, the family, and community. Violence in society pulls down an economy's capacity to recover from crisis, as well as affects the impact on promoting economic development, according to Duvvury. The research aims to identify the links between violence against women and girls and the economic impact this violence has on nations at differing stages of development.

The research will survey 4,500 women from Ghana, Pakistan, and South Sudan—three countries representing fragile, conflict-affected, and/or low-to-middle income states. In-depth interviews with survivors of violence will also be conducted. By producing new empirical evidence on the economic and social costs of violence against women and girls, the project will strengthen the argument for resources to implement laws and provide health and social support

services to help mobilize communities to shift the social norms that underpin violence against women and girls.

The international team, led by NUI Galway, comprises representative of Ipsos MORI, London, and the International Center for Research on Women, Washington D.C. The three-year research project is funded by the U.K. Department for International Development.

Overlaps between privacy and environmental law

'Using ICT for environmental regulation: Overlaps between privacy and environmental law' was a panel session organised and moderated by Dr. Rónán Kennedy on behalf of NUI Galway at the 8th Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection conference held in Brussels 21–23 January.

Environmental regulators are making increasing use of information and communications technology (ICT) for many aspects of their activities. This data is valuable to regulators, citizens, and non-governmental organisations. ICT has an important role in surveillance and monitoring. The European Commission has assigned it a critical role to achieve energy efficiency since 2009. The provision of real-time and highly granular information may enable cheaper, faster, and better environmental protection, but this use of technology also creates risks for the individual privacy. Whereas these concerns (massive databases, geo-located data, and constant surveillance) have been widely studied in many spheres of government activity, little or no attention has been devoted to this specific field. The panel explored the issues, with contributions from lawyers, information systems scholars, non-governmental agencies, and environmental regulators. In particular, the panel discussed the current state of affairs in the use of ICTs for environmental regulation (known as e-regulation), the overlaps and conflicts in the protection of privacy and the protection of the environment, how this use of ICT conforms with the EU's policy of Responsible Research and Innovation, and the role of ICTs in innovation policies, especially for energy efficiency.

Institutional Events

Table 2: 2015 Events Summary

Event Type	Total for 2015
National Conferences	5
Colloquiums and Symposiums	3
International Conferences	1
Industry Events	3
Public Lectures	1
Launch Events	1
Seminars	37
Workshops (Academic and Professional Development)	8
Total Events	59

Selected Events During 2015

National Conferences, Colloquiums and Symposiums

- Precarious Geographies: Insecurity, Solidarity and Critical Geopolitics, 30th March
- Conflict, Humanitarianism and Security Research Symposium 2015, 26th May
- mHealth Conference, 9th June
- 2015 ITRN Conference – Green shoots v. green transport: are economic growth and sustainable transport compatible? 27th August
- IAM 2015 Doctoral Colloquium, 2nd September
- 18th Annual Irish Academy of Management Conference, 3rd September
- Implementing the Atlantic Action Plan and Measuring the Ocean Economy, 24th November
- 7th National Social Marketing Conference, 1st December

Selected International Guest Speakers

- Mr. Greg Borchard , MCB Accounting, Australia
- Dr. Lorenzo Bosi, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy
- Dr. Rachel Carey, University College, London, U.K.

- Mr. Olivier Coispeau, Maverlinn, France
- Prof. James Cunningham, Northumbria University, U.K.
- Prof. Wulf Gaertner, University of Osnabrueck, Germany
- Prof. Bob Galliers, Journal of Strategic Information Systems, U.K.
- Prof. Adrian Guelke, Queens University Belfast, U.K.
- Dr. Christian Hirt, University of Graz, Austria
- Prof. Jennifer Hyndman, York University, Toronto, Canada
- Prof. Ian McBride, Kings College London, U.K.
- Dr. Martin McCleery, Queen's University Belfast,
- Prof. Alison Mountz, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada
- Prof. Rajneesh Narula, University of Reading, U.K.
- Prof. Inger Johanne Pettersen, Trondheim Business School, Norway
- Dr. Nattakarn Phaphoom, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
- Prof. Paul Portney, University of Arizona, U.S.A.
- Dr. John Prpic, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- Mr. Don Reinertsen, Reinertsen & Associates, U.S.A.
- Dr. Kay Russell, Gold-Link Marketing, Australia
- Prof. Rebekah Russell-Bennett, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Prof. Bob Scapens, University of Manchester, U.K.
- Dr. Lars Schwettmann, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- Prof. Gavin Smith, University of Toronto, Canada
- Prof. Peter M. Solar, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- Dr. Mei Yee Tang, University of Manchester, U.K.
- Prof. Pat Thomson, University of Nottingham, U.K.
- Prof. Virpi Kristiina Tuunainen, Aalto University, Finland
- Prof. Bas Verplanken, University of Bath, U.K.
- Dr. Xiaofeng Wang, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
- Prof. Pauline Weetman, University of Edinburgh, U.K.
- Prof. Dianne Welsh, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, U.S.A.

Competitive Funding Awards

Table 3: Some Selected Details of Funding Awards During 2015

Funding Body	Title of Project	Principal Investigator	Amount awarded
EU Commission		Total: 614,413	
European Union (Horizon 2020)	Fairtax: Revisioning the "Fiscal EU": Fair, Sustainable, and Coordinated Tax and Social Policies	Emer Mulligan	€ 222,300
European Union (Horizon 2020)	Q-Tales	Mike Hogan	€ 87,550
European Union (Horizon 2020)	ROUTE TO PA	Mike Hogan (not PI?)	€ 65,000
European Union (Horizon 2020)	Sea Change	Christine Domegan	€ 239,563
Irish Research Council		Total: €157,080	
Irish Research Council (New Horizons)	ESKIMO: Investigating the link between Enterprise Social Media and Information Overload	Eoin Whelan	€ 85,000
Irish Research Council (New Horizons)	The Threat of Algocracy and the Transhumanist Project	John Danaher	€ 72,080
Other		Total: €187,179	
Enterprise Ireland (Innovation Voucher)	ADV Safety	James Cunningham	€ 5,000
Norwegian Research Council	AquaAccept	Stephen Hynes	€ 116,179
NUI Galway Foundation Office	Duanaire (Customs 15)	Aidan Kane	€ 66,000

Major Research Projects

Some ongoing major research projects at the Whitaker Institute include:

FairTax

This project aims to produce recommendations on how fair and sustainable taxation and social policy reforms can increase the economic stability of EU member states, promoting economic equality and security, enhancing coordination and harmonization of tax, social inclusion, environmental, legitimacy, and compliance measures, support deepening of the European Monetary Union, and expanding the EU's own resource revenue bases. See <http://whitakerinstitute.ie/project/fairtax/>

OPS - Open Software Engineering

Fostering innovative practices in commercial software engineering environments is a key challenge, and this project led by Professor Kieran Conboy studied the relationship and tension between open collaboration and measurable innovative outputs in software engineering. This project focused on developing an open engineering methodology and maturity model for ECS in software engineering. This methodology incorporates an empirical investigation of how software development practices and efforts at the inter- and intra-team level, as well as the inter-firm level, can be structured to optimise innovative outcomes. See <http://whitakerinstitute.ie/project/open-software-engineering-ops/>

Q-Tales



To serve the needs of the European Children e-book industry, Q-Tales is a Collaboration Ecosystem, where European creative SMEs, experts, and parents co-create new or transform available children's literature into high-quality e-books & Apps. The Q-Tales ecosystem consists of innovative ICT solutions provided by

European ICT SMEs, along with a Curation Framework provided by European academic experts in the field of Pedagogy, Child Psychology, and evolutionary psychology. Q-Tales aspires to become the first and largest vertical approach in the European e-book industry. See <http://whitakerinstitute.ie/project/q-tales/>

Sea Change



The Sea Change project aims to establish a fundamental 'sea change' in the way European citizens view their relationship with the sea, by increasing ocean literacy and empowering citizens to take direct and sustainable action towards a healthy ocean and seas, healthy communities and, ultimately, a healthy planet.

Dr. Christine Domegan is the leader of WP2. See <http://whitakerinstitute.ie/project/sea-change/>

The key objectives of Sea Change are to:

- Compile a review of the links between marine and Human health based on latest research knowledge outputs
- Build upon the latest social research on citizen and stakeholder attitudes, perceptions and values to help design and implement successful mobilisation activities focused on education, community, governance actors and directly targeted at citizens
- Build upon significant work to date, adopting best practice and embedding Ocean Literacy across established strategic initiatives and networks in order to help maximise impact and ensure sustainability
- Ensure that all activities of Sea Change are carefully monitored and evaluated to ensure maximum sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency
- Ensure Knowledge exchange with transatlantic partners to bring about a global approach to protecting the planet's shared seas and ocean
- Ensure that efforts to sustain an Ocean Literate society in Europe continue beyond the life of Sea Change through codes of good practice, public campaigns and other ongoing community activities.

STYLE



STRATEGIC TRANSITIONS
FOR YOUTH LABOUR
IN EUROPE

STYLE is a research project that aims to examine the obstacles and opportunities affecting youth employment in Europe. The project seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the

causes of very high unemployment among young people and to assess the effectiveness of labour market policies designed to mitigate this phenomenon. The central concept informing this project is based on a policy performance and learning approach to the problems of overcoming youth unemployment for different groups of young people. Using a comparative framework that is sensitive to the impact of historical and regional legacies, the analysis enables identification of where policies are working and why, and it illuminates when and how labour market analysis informs policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. Professor Maura Sheehan coordinates Work Package 7: Self-Employment. See <http://whitakerinstitute.ie/project/strategic-transitions-youth-labour-europe-style/>

Sea for Society



The objective of this project is to implicate and raise awareness among researchers, policy makers, economic stakeholders, young people, citizens and civil society through dialogue, mutual learning and joint action in a new way of understanding the sea and the ocean, the way of the “Blue Society”. The “Blue Society” means combining together the will and need for progress in a respect of sustainability with the respect of resources.

VIBES: Valuing the significant ecosystem services of Irish coastal, marine, and estuarine habitats

This project aims to map and value the ecosystem services generated in the coastal and marine zones around Ireland. Ecosystem services can be broken down into one of three main groupings: 1. Provisioning services, 2. Regulating and maintenance services, or 3. Cultural services. Valuation involves the measurement of the benefits that an individual can get from a good or service. While the value of some of these goods such as fish and aquaculture are somewhat easier to measure, the value of many other benefits such as carbon sequestration, waste treatment and recreation are not captured in any market. Without incorporating these values into the decision making processes, these benefits may be ignored or underestimated and changes within coastal and marine zones may incur a net loss to Irish society.

Research Infrastructure

Duanaire

Officially launched in April, the Duanaire project borrows the Irish word for song-book or anthology, to convey the sense of a rich, varied corpus handed down and explored anew. This project, led by Dr. Aidan Kane will open up a wealth of Irish economic history data, and in particular, Irish fiscal history data, by making a range of datasets accessible online in flexible forms to diverse audiences. The project will construct a unique infrastructure for the imaginative curation, exploration, and sharing of significant tranches of Irish economic history data.

Duanaire is supported by the technical, academic, and management resources of the Whitaker Institute and partners closely with the James Hardiman Library and the Moore Institute at NUI Galway to provide sustainable and high-quality data curation infrastructures.

The Duanaire project aims to:

- Open up, for diverse audiences, a wealth of important Irish economic history data, centred on Irish fiscal history, over three centuries;
- Deliver a substantive and impactful research programme drawing upon these unique data resources;
- Build capacity to contribute to a research agenda in other data-intensive fields of Irish economic history; and
- Provide a sustainable platform for the long-term curation, management, exploration, and open sharing of Irish economic history data.

Measurement Instrument Database for the Social Sciences



MIDSS
Measurement Instrument Database
for the Social Sciences

The Measurement Instrument Databank for the Social Sciences (MIDSS) is an open access repository of shareable assessment instruments used to collect data from across the social sciences, and researchers worldwide have submitted their measurement instruments to the database.

MIDSS is currently in a growth phase and does not have staff dedicated to actively trawl the internet and scientific literature to find instruments for MIDSS, but relies on creators to submit their own instruments using a Wiki-type model.

By the end of 2014, there were in excess of 500 instruments available in the database, and the site received 210,089 sessions by 174,699 unique users. Of these users, 38.7 per cent were based in the US, 9.4 per cent in the UK, 4.6 per cent in Canada, and 2.1 per cent based in Ireland placing it as the 9th in the list of geographic usage. Instruments were downloaded a total of 80,300 times.

Effective Research Supports

A broad range of Institutional supports designed to build capabilities within the Whitaker Institute and aimed at advancing both the research agenda and academic career of our research members continued during 2015.

Writers' development programme and retreat

In December, twenty staff members took three days out to work intensively on papers for publication. The retreat ran from 1-3 December in the Connemara Coast Hotel, far enough away to allow participants to leave other work concerns behind, but near enough to be very manageable. Colleagues from across the university joined the retreat and there was an extremely diverse group this year, which made for rich discussion and connections during break-times. Participants made substantial progress on their projects. Many completed full first drafts, resolved conceptual problems, or completed revisions on a paper. The benefits of the retreat can be summed up in the words of one participant, that "A reminder that writing is central to my academic work." The retreat is funded by the Whitaker Institute and will run twice a year: in the study week after semester one and again after semester two.

Editorial office for the *Human Resource Management Journal*

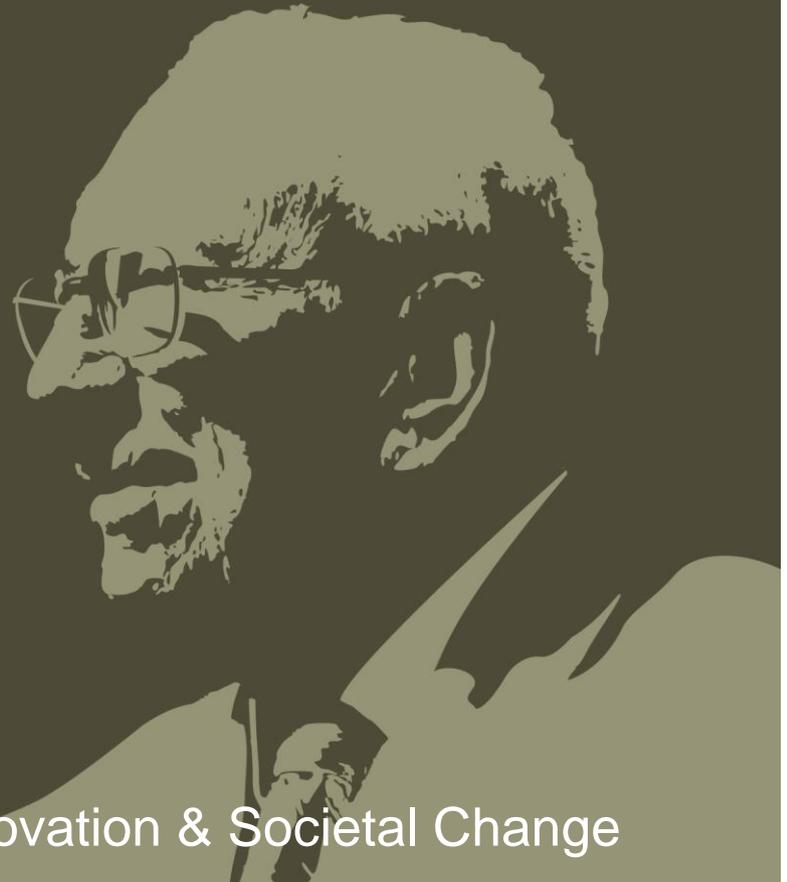
The Whitaker Institute hosted the Editorial Office of the HRMJ, one of the leading international journals in the sector, through until the end of 2015. When Professor Tony Dundon—an editor of the HRMJ since 2008—left NUI Galway, the editorial function moved to Wiley.



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